

REGISTRATION

California law requires current registration of most vessels. This includes vessels that are moored, whether or not they are used. All vessels must be registered and numbered except:

1. Boats propelled manually.
2. Boats eight feet or less in length propelled solely by sail.
3. Certain vessels owned by public agencies.
4. Vessels documented by the Coast Guard.
5. Foreign vessels.
6. Ship's lifeboats used solely for lifesaving purposes.
7. Vessels having valid registration in the state of principal use and not remaining in California over 90 consecutive days.
8. Sailboards.

HOW TO REGISTER

Application to register a vessel may be made at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Upon receipt of the required information and fees, DMV will issue a Certificate of Number, a Certificate of Ownership, and a set of registration stickers. The boat registration number is the number (beginning with CF) shown on the certificates.

Upon registration, your vessel may be subject to Use Tax based on the purchase price if it is acquired out-of-state or from a private party. For additional information regarding Use Tax, contact your local Board of Equalization or DMV office.

The Certificate of Ownership is your evidence of title to the vessel and, therefore, should be kept in a safe place. Certificates issued will also contain the boat's identifying number (known as the hull identification number), which is the number permanently marked on the transom by the manufacturer or builder, or the number assigned by DMV and marked on the transom by the owner. The reverse side of the Certificate of Ownership is an application for transfer of ownership.

The Certificate of Number, or temporary Certificate of Number, must be available for inspection on the vessel whenever it is being used on the water. Proper display of the current registration stickers on the vessel next to the CF number is required to permit enforcement officers to determine, without boarding, that the vessel is currently registered.

REGISTRATION FEES

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| Original Registration (including stickers) | \$ 9.00 |
| Renewal of Registration (two-year) | \$10.00 |
| Renewal of Registration (for vessels purchased in even-numbered years) | \$ 5.00 |
| Non-resident Original Registration | \$37.00 |
| Boat Trailer Registration (initial) | \$20.00 |
| Transfer of Ownership, Single | \$15.00 |
| For each additional Transfer | \$15.00 |
| Duplicate Certificate of Number | \$15.00 |
| Duplicate Certificate of Ownership | \$15.00 |
| Duplicate Set of Stickers | \$15.00 |
| Repossession | \$15.00 |
| Historical Vessel Plaque | \$20.00 |

Although DMV is responsible for collection of biennial vessel registration fees, boat owners may still be subject to annual local county taxes. Boats are subject to personal property taxes assessed by the assessor in the county where your boat is principally located. Failure to pay personal property taxes assessed on a boat may result in the nonrenewal of the boat's registration. Questions concerning taxes on boats should be directed to the assessor of that particular county.

DISPLAY OF NUMBERS AND STICKERS

Numbers and stickers issued at the time of registration must be placed on each side of the forward half of the vessel, usually on the bow, in the manner indicated below. If placement of a number on a flared bow would result in difficult reading, the number should be placed on some other part of the forward half of the vessel where it can be easily read.

For personal watercraft, the numbers and stickers must also be affixed on each side of the forward half of the vessel on a non-removable portion of the hull.



On inflatable boats or vessels so configured that a number will not properly adhere or cannot be clearly seen, the number should be painted on or attached to a backing plate along with the registration sticker. The registration stickers must be securely affixed 3 in. aft of, and in line with, the registration numbers. The number must be visible from each side of the vessel. No other numbers, letters, or devices may be placed in the vicinity of the state-assigned number.

To separate the numerals from the letters, spaces the width of the letter "C" or hyphens may be used between the prefix and the number, and between the number and the suffix. Letters and numerals must be at least three inches high, of block character, and of a color which will form a good contrast with the color of the hull or backing plate. In determining height and contrast, any border, trim, outlining, or shading around the number shall not be considered.

CORRECT DISPLAY OF NUMBER

REGISTRATION STICKER



NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The owner is required to notify DMV in writing whenever any of the following takes place:

1. The vessel has been destroyed or abandoned. This notice must be given within 15 days and be accompanied by the Certificate of Number and Certificate of Ownership.
2. The owner's address has been changed. This notice must be given within 15 days.
3. The vessel is sold. This notice must be provided within five calendar days and must include date of sale, a description of the vessel and name and address of the new owner.

Registration forms may be obtained from any local DMV office or authorized registration agent or by writing:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Registration Processing Units
P.O. Box 942869
Sacramento, CA 94269-0001